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From: cfhla@memberclicks-mail.net on behalf of Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association
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GA MEETING

On Wednesday, December 13th, the **CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee** met with **State Senator Keith Perry** (R-Gainesville) to discuss a number of Hospitality Industry related bills that have been filed for the **2018 Legislative Session**.

[ABBY SALTER](#)

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CFHLA Board Member Jay Leonard, General Manager of the Wyndham and Wyndham Garden Lake Buena Vista Resorts Disney Springs Resort Area, State Senator Keith Perry, and CFHLA Incoming 2018 Chairman Fred Sawyers, Complex General Manager of the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort

Senator Perry, a former CFHLA Member, shared with GA Committee Members his thoughts on the **importance of Tourism** to the state economy and expressed his concern over legislation moving through the Senate that would violate the integrity of the **Tourist Development Tax** (TDT).

CFHLA is carefully monitoring **SB 658** (filed by Senator Jeff Brandes), which would allow for Counties to utilize TDT funds for **non-tourism promotion purposes** such as transportation, public safety, sewage and other expenses traditionally covered in general budgeting. CFHLA opposes any efforts to expand the allowed uses of the TDT beyond their original intent of tourism promotion, as dictated by the 1977 law that established the tax at the request of Florida's lodging community.

POLITTE

CFHLA congratulates **Board Member Mark Politte**, **Area General Manager** of the **DoubleTree by Hilton at the Entrance to Universal Orlando** for his selection to serve on the **Orange County Sports Incentive Committee**.

Upon creation of the Sports Incentive Committee earlier this year, one of the designated positions was reserved for a "**CFHLA Representative**." CFHLA proudly nominated Mark Politte to serve as the CFHLA Representative and the **Orange County Board of County Commissioners** approved his nomination at the December 19th County Commission meeting.

The Sports Incentive Committee will first meet in early 2018 and will be asked to review future funding requests for Orange County Sports Tourism projects and events.

PAC / PC

The December 6th CFHLA **Political Action Committee** (CFHLA-PAC) and **Political Committee** (CFHLA-PC) Board of Directors meetings featured a number of newly elected PAC/PC Board Members:

Brad Boland

[CLC World Resorts & Hotels](#)

(2018 CFHLA Vacation Ownership Council Representative)

Jackie Bozzuto

[Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A.](#)

Chadwick Hardee

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Ron Silveira

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Cindy Staley

[Sheraton Lake Buena Vista Resort](#)

Additionally, PAC Board Members approved the re-authorization of the **VoteVoice** advocacy system, last utilized by CFHLA in 2016, which will allow CFHLA Members to quickly contact their elected officials in 2018 to voice support or opposition to policies that would impact the Hospitality Industry.

PAC/PC Board Members also said **“THANK YOU”** to the following individuals who officially “termed-out” their consecutive years of PAC/PC Board Service:

Cindy Andrews

[Sunbrite Outdoor Furniture](#)

Peter Kacheris

[Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek & Waldorf Astoria Orlando](#)

Dan Kline

[Magical Memories Villas](#)

Bruce Skwarlo

[Orlando Marriott Lake Mary](#)



CFHLA-PAC Board Member Chadwick Hardee of APDC Services, CFHLA-PAC Board Vice Chairman Keith Wolling, CFHLA-PAC Board Member Cindy Staley, General Manager of the Sheraton Lake Buena Vista Resort, CFHLA-PAC Board Chairman Jay Leonard, General Manager of the Wyndham and Wyndham Garden Lake Buena Vista Resorts Disney Springs Resort Area, CFHLA-PAC Board Member Brad Boland, General Manager of the CLC Encantada Resort and CLC Regal Oaks Resort, and CFHLA-PAC Board Member Ron Silveira F.P.I.S., Inc. Brochure Distribution & Travel Marketing

DIAMOND

Over 30 CFHLA Board, PAC Board and Governmental Affairs Committee Members were in attendance on Wednesday, December 20th for an **“Orange County TDT Workshop”** at the CFHLA Offices, featuring a special presentation from **Orange County Comptroller Phil Diamond** on Orange County TDT authorizations, uses and current commitments.

Comptroller Diamond and Orange County staff member **Barry Skinner** provided a detailed presentation and answered questions from CFHLA Members about the uses of the tax in Orange County.

CFHLA thanks Comptroller Diamond for his continued partnership with **Central Florida’s Hospitality Industry** and for serving as a “watchdog” of TDT collections in Orange County.



CFHLA Board Member Brian Wong, Owner/General Manager of the Celebration Suites Hotel, Melanie Becker of Universal Orlando, Orange County Comptroller Phil Diamond, and Adrianna Sekula of the Walt Disney World Company

TOURISM DAY

On **Wednesday, January 17th**, over 25 CFHLA Members will be departing the CFHLA Offices at 5:30 AM for an “all-day” trip to Tallahassee for the annual **Florida Tourism Day** event at the **State Capitol**.

Each year, CFHLA coordinates over 12 meetings with prominent State Representatives, State Senators and Governor Scott to lobby on behalf of the Association’s Legislative Priorities.

CFHLA would like to thank **Mears Transportation Group** for once again providing charter motor coach transportation for this important CFHLA public policy event.

To review the 2018 CFHLA Legislative Priorities on the CFHLA website, please [click here](#).

VISIT ORLANDO

CFHLA partnered with [Visit Orlando](#) on December 11th and 12th for consecutive days of “**Tourist Development Orientations**” for members of the Central Florida Legislative Delegation.

These important orientation meetings allowed **Visit Orlando President/CEO George Aguel** to provide legislators with an in-depth look at the operations of Visit Orlando and how the agency successfully attracts record-breaking

CFHLA would like to thank the following Central Florida elected officials for taking the time to attend these orientations and for their insightful questions relating to tourism marketing:

State Representative Kamia Brown

State Representative John Cortes

State Representative Mike Miller

State Representative Bobby Olszewski

State Representative Rene Plasencia

State Representative Carlos Smith

State Senator Victor Torres

ABBY SALTER

CFHLA would like to officially welcome **Abby Salter** to the CFHLA team as the **Spring 2018 Public Policy Intern**.

Abby has previously served as an intern in Tallahassee with CFHLA's contract lobbyist firm, **GrayRobinson**, and has a strong understanding of Florida politics and will be an important asset to CFHLA's Public Policy department.

Abby will be interning 2-3 days per week at CFHLA, assisting with PAC/PC Board meetings, Governmental Affairs Committee meetings and fulfilling a number of other support roles to CFHLA's Public Policy department during the 2018 Legislative Session.

Please note that Abby's CFHLA email address is gaintern@cfhla.org.

LINKS


Below please find news articles relating to the political interests of the Hospitality Industry:

[Orlando could require home-sharers to be at home](#)

[Orlando hoteliers aim to stop bill that would expand](#)


[Florida tourist-tax proposal for broader use of money gets committee OK](#)

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